

CLAIMS

1. A method in a communication system for providing a location service with geographical location information associated with a user equipment capable of communicating with the communication system, the method comprising the steps of: storing connection information identifying a connection of the user equipment in the communication system; and determining whether the user equipment is currently connected in the network, wherein responsive to the user equipment not currently being connected in the network, the location of the user equipment is determined in dependence on the last stored connection information for the user equipment, the method further including the step of translating the connection information into geographical coordinates.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the connection information includes a service area identity.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the connection information includes a cell global identity.
4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the location service is provided by a gateway mobile location center.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the gateway mobile location center is adapted to communicate with a gateway mobile location center of a further communication system.
6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the connection information is stored in a control element of the communication system.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the connection information is stored in a radio network controller of the communication system.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the connection information is stored in a mobile switching center of the communication system.
9. A method according to claim 6 wherein the connection information is stored in a serving GPRS support node of the communication system.
- 5 10. A method according to claim 6 wherein the connection information is stored in a serving mobile location center of the communication system.
- 10 11. A method according to any preceding claim; wherein the step of translating the connection information into geographical coordinates is carried out by a location service.
12. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the communication system comprises a cellular telecommunications network.
- 15 13. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the user equipment comprises a mobile station.
- 20 14. A communication system comprising a location server for providing geographical location information associated with a user equipment capable of communicating with the communication system; and a network element for storing connection information identifying a connection of the user equipment in the communication system and for determining whether the user equipment is currently connected in the network, wherein responsive to a request from the location server for location information when the user equipment is not currently connected in the network, the network element provides the location server with details of the connection information last stored for the user equipment, and wherein the location server translates the connection information into geographical coordinates.
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15. A communication system according to claim 14 wherein the connection information includes a service area identity or a cell global identity.
16. A communication according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein the location server is provided by a gateway mobile location center.
17. A communication system according to claim 16 wherein the gateway mobile location center is adapted to communicate with a gateway mobile location center of a further communication system.
18. A communication system according to any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein network element is one or all of a radio network controller; a mobile switching center of the communication system; a serving GPRS support node of the communication system; or a serving mobile location center of the communication system.
19. A communication system according to any one of claims 14 to 18 wherein the communication system comprises a cellular telecommunications network.
20. 20. A communication system according to any one of claims 14 to 19 wherein the user equipment comprises a mobile station.